Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 2

Vocabulary & Word Meanings

The Pot Maker & Gifts of Grace: Honouring Our Vocations • 2026–27

A. The Pot Maker – Important Vocabulary

outgrow
to lose interest in something as one grows older

indifference
lack of interest in something

pittance
a small amount of money received as income

pounding
repeated beating

tedious
tiring; requiring a lot of effort and time

deftly
skillfully

spatula
a tool used by a potter to shape a pot

tend
to take care of

followed suit
did the same thing as somebody else has just done

dao
an instrument used to dig

malleable
able to be put into shape without breaking or cracking

dormitories
large rooms containing many beds, as in a hostel

resolved
determined

wearily
tiredly

slackened
relaxed; made less tight or less fast

momentum
driving force

dexterity
skill in performing a task

tally
a count of pots or other items

threshold
the entrance of a room or doorway

intuitively
based on feelings rather than conscious reasoning

momentous
of great significance

phenomenon
an unusual or significant incident or event

profound
powerful; very deep

revelation
a moment of realisation or discovery

B. Contextual Words & Expressions

sheer exhaustion
extreme tiredness

handsome return
a substantial or good financial return

bring out a batch
produce or complete a group of items

give a final touch-up
make final small improvements

in a uniform pattern
arranged in an even, regular way

take over the job
continue or assume the work

hang one's head
show shame, disappointment or embarrassment

in frustration
with a feeling of annoyance or disappointment

in perfect coordination
working together smoothly and accurately

one short of
one less than the stated number

abruptly stopped in her tracks
stopped suddenly because of surprise

handiwork
work made or done by a person

side by side
next to each other

C. Pottery Tools, Materials & Processes

dao
tool used to dig clay

bamboo cylinder
a container used for pounding the clay

spatula
tool used to shape the clay

basket
used to carry the clay

kiln
a structure in which pottery is fired

dough
soft, workable material formed from the clay

clay
the natural material used for making pots

bed of hay
a layer of dry hay used while arranging pots for firing

pounding
beating the clay repeatedly to soften it

rotating
turning the clay while shaping it

shaping
giving the clay the desired form

rim
the edge or mouth of a pot

D. Livelihood & Economic Vocabulary

pittance
a very small amount of income

rupees
units of Indian currency

reward
something received in return for effort or work

return
the benefit or income received from an activity or investment

bankrupt
unable to pay debts

credit
money or goods received with payment due later

currency
the money used in a country

debt
money that is owed

fiscal
related to government revenue, spending or finance

inflation
a general increase in prices

investment
money or resources put into something for a future return

interest
money paid for borrowing or earned on deposited money

E. Gifts of Grace – Vocabulary

vocation
a type of work or occupation, especially one regarded as meaningful

craftsperson
a person skilled in making things by hand

artisan
a skilled craft worker

myriad
a very large number; countless

hues
colours or shades

precision
exactness or accuracy

varied
different; diverse

delicious
very pleasant to taste

affirm
to declare or state with confidence

sericulturist
a producer of raw silk

horticulturist
a person who studies or grows garden plants

confectioner
a person who makes or sells sweets and chocolates

goldsmith
a metalworker who specialises in precious metals

welder
a person who joins or fuses materials, especially metals

ASHA worker

a trained female community health worker

carpenter
a person who makes or repairs things from wood

electrician
a person who works with electrical systems, cables and wires

boatman
a person who works or travels by boat

shoemaker
a person who makes or repairs shoes

mason
a worker who builds with brick, stone or similar materials

F. Poem Expressions & Meaning

‘I hear Bharat celebrating’
the poet imagines the varied occupations as a collective celebration

‘woven with colours and myriad hues’
rich and varied colours associated with craft

‘mathematical precision’
great exactness in the carpenter’s work

‘brighten our lives’
provide light and make life easier or better

‘return home’
besides literal return, it can suggest safety, belonging or completion of a journey

‘what belongs to them and to none else’
the distinct contribution associated with each vocation

‘voice of their vocation’
the identity and expression represented by a person’s work

G. Synonyms & Antonyms from the Textbook Activity

myriad – synonyms
countable, innumerable, numerous, abundant

hues – synonyms
shades, tints, colour

precision – synonyms
exactness, accuracy, correctness

varied – synonyms
assorted, diverse, different

delicious – synonyms
mouth-watering, tasty, flavourful

myriad – NOT a synonym in the textbook options
countable

hues – NOT a synonym in the textbook options
drawing

precision – NOT a synonym in the textbook options
calculation

varied – NOT a synonym in the textbook options
uniform

delicious – NOT a synonym in the textbook options
inedible

Quick Revision – 25 Must-Know Words

outgrow — lose interest as one grows older

indifference — lack of interest

pittance — very small income

tedious — tiring

deftly — skillfully

malleable — easy to shape

resolved — determined

wearily — tiredly

momentum — driving force

dexterity — skill

tally — count

threshold — entrance

intuitively — based on feelings

momentous — very significant

phenomenon — unusual event

profound — powerful/deep

revelation — moment of realisation

vocation — occupation

craftsperson — skilled maker

myriad — countless

hues — shades/colours

precision — accuracy

affirm — declare confidently

sericulturist — producer of raw silk

confectioner — maker/seller of sweets

Source note: Definitions and contextual meanings are based on the uploaded Chapter 2 textbook, especially the vocabulary boxes in The Pot Maker and the Vocabulary in Context section of Gifts of Grace. Where the textbook gives a definition directly, that wording has been retained or closely paraphrased.